

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 179533
ORIGIN HA-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARA-10 EUR-08 NSCE-00 INR-05
INRE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 SP-02 L-01 PA-01 /044 R

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EUR/NE:MR. FUNSETH

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O 151833Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 179533

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SHUM BL

SUBJECT: BOLIVIAN ELECTION FRAUD

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1. IN VIEW OF RECENT INTERNATIONAL OBSERVER FINDINGS OF
SERIOUS DETERIORATION IN BOLIVIAN ELECTION PROCESSES, IN-
CLUDING LIKELIHOOD OF FRAUDULENT PRESIDENTIAL VOTE
COUNT FINDINGS ALSO DESCRIBED BY EMBASSY LA PAZ, WE HAVE

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EXPRESSED OUR SERIOUS CONCERN TO GOB AT HIGHEST LEVELS.
WE HAVE TOLD GOB ELECTION FRAUD WILL BE PERCEIVED ABROAD
AS BACKSLIDING ON PLEDGED RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC PROCESS
AND AS VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION OF CIVIL AND
POLITICAL LIBERTIES. WE ALSO HAVE EMPHASIZED POTENTIAL
ADVERSE IMPACT ON U.S.-BOLIVIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS AND
STRESSED POSSIBLE DIMINISHED INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF

ELECTORAL RESULTS IF PRESENT COURSE CONTINUES.

2. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY LONDON INFORMING FCO AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF OUR VIEWS ON ELECTION FRAUD AND URGING HMG (IF IT HAS NOT ALREADY DONE SO) EXPRESS SIMILAR CONCERN ABOUT IMPLICATION OF THIS ACTION ON DEMOCRATIC PROCESS AND INTERNATIONAL PERCEPTION OF BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT. BEGIN FYI. WE BELIEVE BRITISH DEMARCHE WOULD BE ESPECIALLY APPROPRIATE AND EFFECTIVE IN VIEW PRESENCE OF LORD AVEBURY ON OBSERVER TEAM AND HIS UPCOMING PRESS CON-

ERENCE ON ELECTIONS IN LONDON. EMBASSY ALSO WILL RECALL VISIT OF BRITISH MINE WORKERS DELEGATION TO BOLIVIA MINING AREAS MID 1977 AND THEIR REPORT OF REPRESSIVE WORKING CONDITIONS AND UNION RESTRICTIONS WHICH REPORTEDLY LED TO CANCELLING A PLANNED UK LOAN TO GOB. END FYI. SINCE TIME FACTOR CRITICAL DEMARCHE SHOULD BE MADE AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY.

3. IF THEY BELIEVE IT MIGHT FURTHER OUR AIM ON THIS QUESTION, EUR INFO ADDRESSEES ARE ALSO INVITED TO INQUIRE OF HOST GOVERNMENTS WHETHER THEY HAVE MADE ANY DEMARCHES AND URGE SAME IF HOST GOVERNMENT SEEMS RECEPTIVE AND JUDGES SUCH DEMARCHES WOULD BE PRODUCTIVE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION FRAUD, ELECTIONS, FRAUDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE179533
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CBSALMON, JR.
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780291-0370
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780755/aaaabuoa.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6e068072-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN HA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1994135
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOLIVIAN ELECTION FRAUD -
TAGS: SHUM, BL
To: LONDON
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6e068072-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014